

CONFIDENTIAL

COCOM Doc. No. 3521

50

6k.

Date: May 11, 1959

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION

Concerning

EXPORT TO POLAND OF POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE ARTERIAL AND
BIFURCATION GRAFTS (AE-6)

The United States requests approval for the export to Poland, under the special Polish policy, of 40 arterial and bifurcation grafts made wholly of polytetrafluoroethylene (commercially known as Teflon) and valued at \$1,071. Polytetrafluoroethylene is embargoed by AE Item 6.

These grafts are small tubes used to replace defective arteries and veins. They are employed in such specialized surgery as heart operations with annual consumption at a single U.S. hospital doing this surgery varying from 50 to 200 per year.

The 40 grafts weigh less than one pound and in unfabricated form would have a value of less than \$10. The conversion of the tetrafluoroethylene to other purposes would, therefore, be unlikely both because of the small quantity involved and because of the high cost of the grafts.

In view of the reasonableness of the quantity compared to U.S. medical requirements, the impracticability of diverting the raw material to other uses, and the humanitarian application of the material, the United States believes that these 40 grafts are reasonable and necessary to the Polish civilian economy.

CONFIDENTIAL